

Overview:

The global number of COVID-19 cases has exceeded three million (3,018,681 cases), as per the World Health Organization on 29th April 2020. Global mobility remains at a temporary cessation, as nearly 100 per cent of all global destination have travel restrictions imposed, of these, 83 per cent have been imposed already for four or more weeks, as per the UN World Travel Organisation. A total of 218 countries, territories and areas have imposed 54,379 restrictions on 30th April 2020, demonstrating a three per cent increase from 52,970 restrictions as of 27th April 2020. The preference for restrictions and measures like requiring new documents for entry, as well as medical measures such as COVID-19 negative medical certificates or mandatory quarantine continued to increase by 13 and 7 per cent respectively. While closure of borders and suspension of air travel for passengers has been prolonged, varying measures for easing and/or extending, internal restrictions continues at different paces. After an acceleration in the number of COVID-19 cases, authorities in the Russian Federation extended the stay-at-home measures until 11th May 2020. Hungary will uphold current school closures until the end of May and restrictions on large gatherings until August 2020. Conversely, as part of easing measures Italy announced plans to reopen Rome's Ciampino International Airport and the Florence Airport in Peretola while implementing medical screening measures from 4th May 2020. The Islamic Republic of Iran opened its land borders with Pakistan, the Rimdan land border crossing has been opened authorising the movement of 20 trucks carrying food product on Saturdays, Mondays and Wednesdays from 8am to 2pm with health protocols in effect.

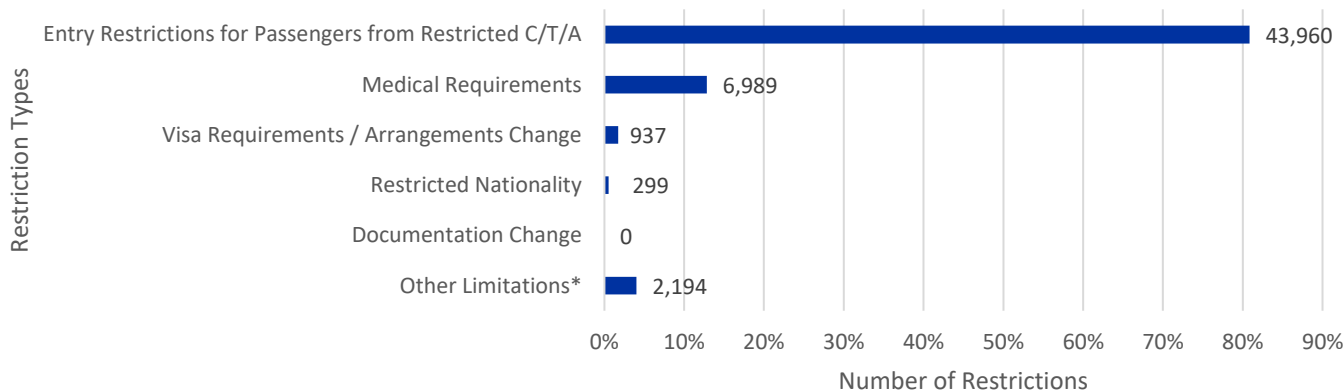
Nigeria announced plans to replace the current four-week lockdown with a curfew from 8pm to 6am, permitting only essential travel during this period as well as mandatory face masks. Likewise, Thailand will also ease nation-wide restrictions from 3rd May 2020, allowing the reopening of markets, restaurants and cafes, but will maintain a strict curfew from 10pm to 4pm. France announced a phased plan to loosen measures including reopening of kindergartens and primary schools and many shops from 11th May 2020. After three months in lockdown, Chile announced plans to ease restrictions including reopening 100 malls in stages, under measures of social distancing and controlling the number of visitors. Similarly, after seven-weeks in lockdown, Ecuador announced plans to gradually ease restrictions from 4th May 2020, introducing a colour-coded risk level for cities. As per this system, red areas will remain under shutdown orders and yellow and green regions will see transport restrictions partially lifted, curfew hours scaled back, up to 70 percent of employees allowed to return to work, and some sectors reopened. Cyprus outlined a four phases plan for progressively loosening internal restrictions starting from 4th May 2020.

The return of nationals and mobility for humanitarian purposes continues amid restrictions. The World Food Programme's first Global Aviation Service passenger flight between Addis Ababa and Accra will take place on 1st May 2020 to ensure that the mobility of humanitarian and medical staff continues. Turkey also organised the return of 622 nationals on 29th April 2020 from abroad, an additional 289 nationals were airlifted from Iraq. Meanwhile, a total of 333 Turkish nationals were also flown in from the Russian Federation. After routine health checks, all returnees were taken to dormitories to quarantine for a period of 14-days.

Data Source: IATA (<https://www.iatatravelcentre.com/international-travel-document-news/1580226297.htm>)

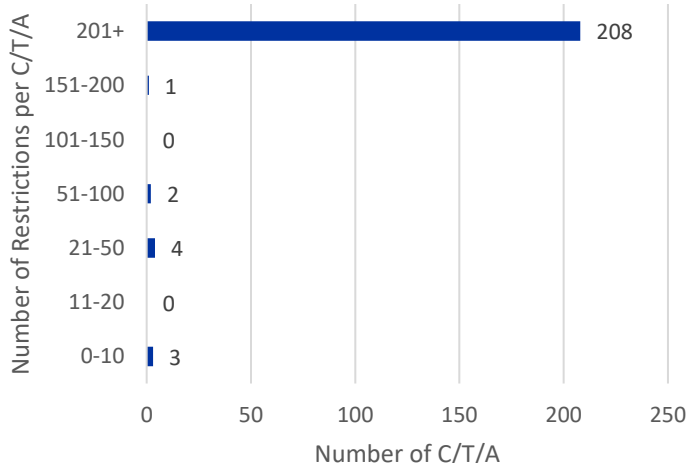
Numbers at a glance

Most Common Imposed Restriction Types

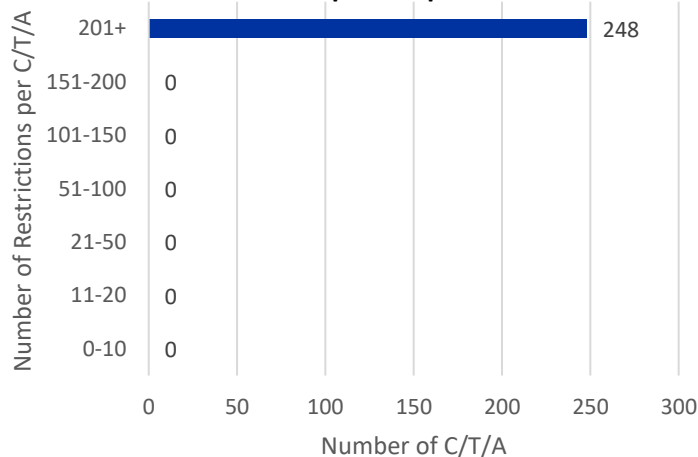


*Other limitations include suspended visas on arrival and entry permits, requirements for international travel certificates and medical coverages.

Number of Countries/ Territories/ Areas Imposing Restrictions

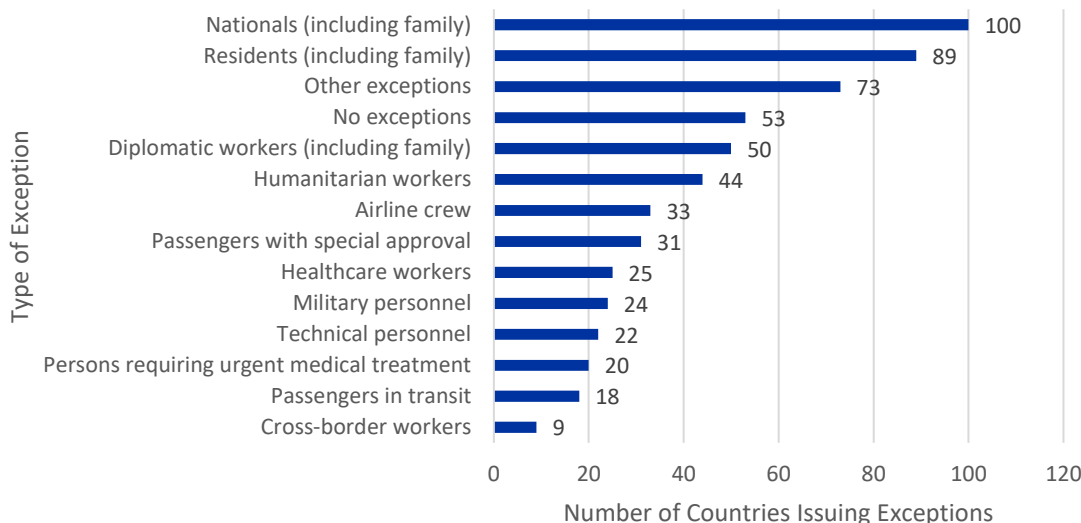


Number of Countries/ Territories/ Areas with Restrictions Imposed upon them



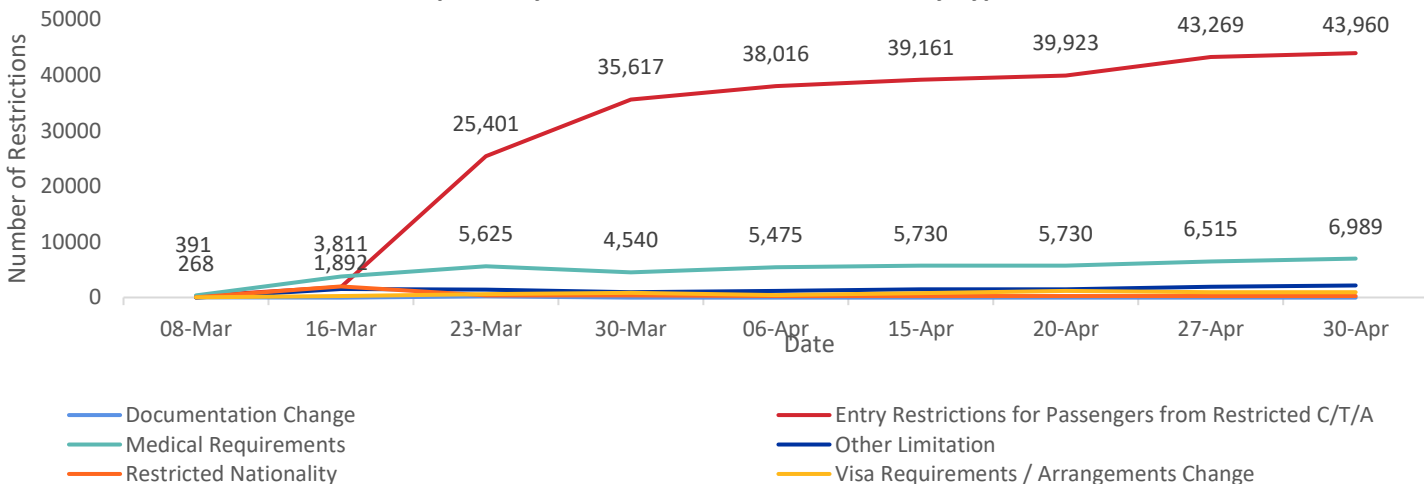
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Exceptions for Entry

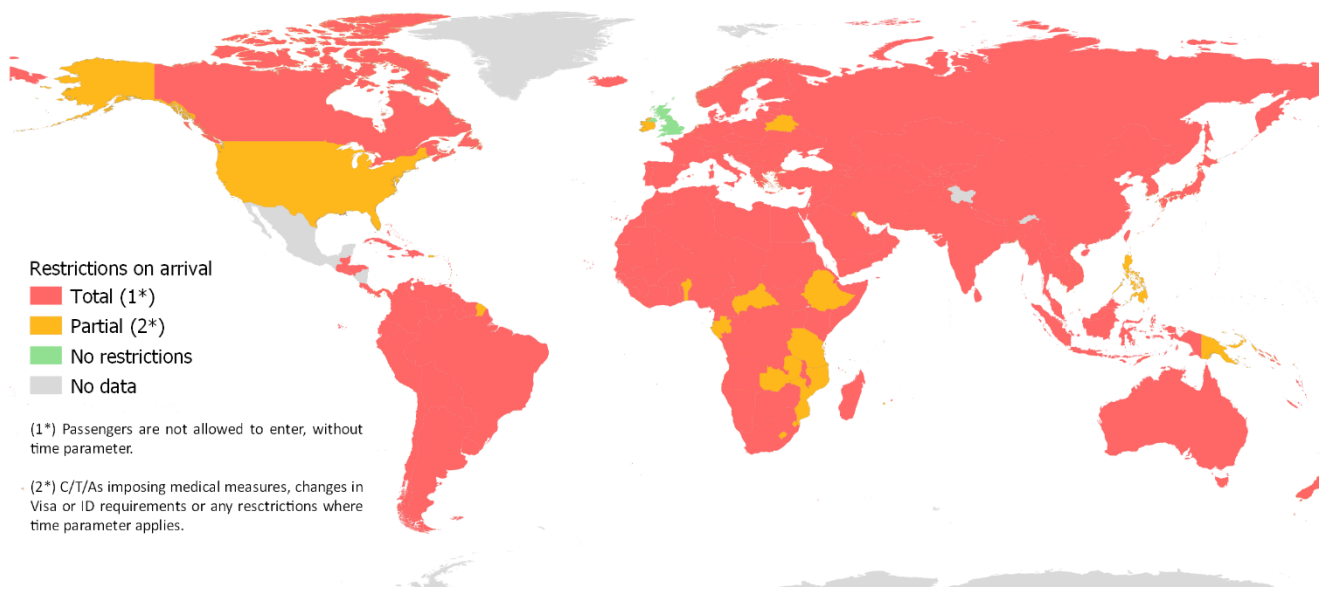


*Nationals (including family members)
Residents (including family members)
No exceptions
Other exceptions
Passengers with a diplomatic passport/visa; diplomats on duty station in the country (including family members)
Passengers with a UN passport; personnel of international and humanitarian organizations
Airline crew
Passengers with a special approval/valid letter of prior approval issued by the government or other entity
Technical, directive personnel and cargo operators
Healthcare professionals, healthcare researchers and collaborators
Military personnel/Military forces of NATO
Passengers in transit
Persons requiring urgent medical treatment
Cross-border workers

Measures Imposed by Countries/ Territories/ Areas, by Type and Date



Restrictions on Arrival



Key Highlights:

- Measures and requirements for airline crew members were issued by the authorities of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia requiring airline crew to undergo quarantine for 14-days upon arrival if they arrive or transit through a country, territory or area with an ongoing COVID-19 outbreak in the past 2 weeks.
- Similarly, stringent measures for airline crew for repatriation flights were also issued by French Polynesia, airline staff are required to undergo medical control and complete a declaration they are stating compliance with the requirements of self-isolation for 14 days. However, airline crew are exempt from such measures if they are if they are in transit and stay in the aircraft, or if there is no layover.
- Lesotho issued travel restrictions for the first time, requiring all passengers to undergo COVID-19 testing and mandatory 14-day quarantine. Similarly, Mozambique issued medical measures requiring all passengers to undergo 14-day mandatory self-quarantine.
- The continuation of air travel suspensions and airport closures were issued by Albania, Pakistan, South Africa, French Polynesia and Thailand for an indefinite period.
- The Islamic Republic of Iran issued stricter medical measures stipulating that all passengers must go through medical screening and must fill in a self-declaration form. Previously authorities required medical screening only for passengers arriving from the People's Republic of China.
- New medical measures were issued by the Philippines for overseas Filipino workers (OFW) and merchant seamen who must undergo COVID-19 tests on arrival conducted by Bureau of Quarantine after which they have to undergo a mandatory 14-day quarantine at a Government facility. Authorities also issued measures for nationals of Philippines who will now be required to fill in Immigration Arrival Cards specifying their address in the Philippines.
- Medical measures were introduced for returning nationals and residents by Slovakia, requiring all passengers to undergo medical screening at point of entry, if tested positive passengers will be required to undergo quarantine. Meanwhile, Slovenia introduced measures requiring returning nationals and residents to self-isolate for 7 days upon arrival.
- New exceptions for entry were issued by Albania permitting return and emergency flights whereas the Philippines issued new exceptions for airline crew and foreign crew members.
- Kuwait announced exceptions for diplomatic, return and humanitarian flights approved by the Air Transport Department as well as aircrafts operated by Kuwait Air Force, Kuwait Police Wing and Kuwait Ameri Flight. Authorities introduced a new measure for entry requiring arriving passengers to install an official app 'Shlonik' in their personal device before departure. This app is a self-check-in mechanism for quarantined patients, reporting on vital and a communication tool with the Ministry of Health medical teams. Airlines must inform Kuwait DGCA of passengers who are not able to install it.
- Malaysia continued its travel ban on the entry and transit of all passengers, authorities issued new exceptions for the entry of permanent residents with a Malaysian Permanent Resident card, as well as spouses or children of nationals as long as they have a sticker label visa in the passport specifically indicating their status. Additionally, passengers who can enter will be subjected to medical measures such as quarantine for 14 days at the designated quarantine stations. For nationals of Malaysia, the government will bear the cost of MYR 150 per day. For all other passengers, they are required to bear all the costs.